EWN FY15 IPR

Atchafalaya River Island Creation (Suedel)

- Problem

CEMVN is using dredged material to nourish a small naturally forming island, yet our understanding of how and why the island formed is lacking.

Monitoring data are needed to quantify and improve the District's understanding of the maturation of this beneficial use of dredged material within the Atchafalaya Basin.

- Objective

To document how a river island was successfully created at Horseshoe Bend using dredged material in a beneficial manner, taking advantage of the natural hydrological processes inherent in the system.

- Approach

Hydrologic, geomorphologic and biologic monitoring studies and high resolution aerial mapping are being performed to determine the river hydrology and the establishment of riparian and wetland vegetation and wildlife on the island.

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- Project Funding by Year
  - FY13: $125K
  - FY14: $266K
  - FY15: $210K

- Major Project Deliverables
  - Tech Report: Using dredged material and nature to create river island habitat in coastal Louisiana (in press)
  - Articles: World Dredging; Terra et Aqua

- USACE Civil Works Benefits
  - Needed so concept can be integrated into other dredging projects elsewhere along the Gulf coast, providing substantial environmental and other benefits as part of ongoing maintenance dredging activities.

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- FY15 Products
  - Collaborations with other agencies: USGS, USFWS, GLGD
  - Collaborations with universities: Louisiana State University
  - EWN Fact Sheet
  - PIANC Working with Nature (WwN) Certification pending
  - Project Award
    - WEDA 2015 Navigation Project Gold Award
  - Conferences and workshops attended
    - WEDA Dredging Summit, Houston, TX
  - Publications
    - Berkowitz et al. 2015, Wetland Science & Practice 32:14-18
    - Kim & Suedel 2015, H&H WEDA Proceedings, pp. 453-468
    - Suedel et al. 2015, Terra et Aqua (Sept 2015)
    - Suedel, Burks-Copes, & Foran Benefits TR (in prep)
    - Berkowitz et al. Nutrient Analyses (in prep)